

## Story County Board of Supervisors

Crisis Child Care provides child care to families of children ages 0-12 that are experiencing an emergency or crisis situation (i.e. hospitalization, homelessness or domestic violence) and lack of family support/social supports to provide safe, appropriate care for their children. Placements are provided for a maximum of 72 continuous hours in the home of a registered child development home provider or licensed foster care provider. To be eligible for Crisis Child Care a family must reside in Story County, have a child age(s) 0-12 and be experiencing a crisis situation. We have staff on call 24/7 that is available to help with placement.

During the current fiscal year we have not been able to serve any families, and have had to turn away 6 families. We were able to place one family so far this fiscal year. COVID and childcare desert issues have been our biggest struggles. Not only are in home daycares and centers already full, each time they have an exposure they have to shut down. Both of these issues make it an obstacle for providers to want to take in outside kids, and the room to take in outside kids.

Our biggest focus this year is finding new providers. We have been working closely within our compliance, human resource and marketing department to expand our services. We are now approved to bring on providers that are registered foster families. They receive oversight through DHS as well as whatever agency they are certified through. This will work the same way it has with our registered day care providers. Unfortunately, the foster care system is also struggling to gain providers and have more kids without foster placements than ever. We also increased the rate of pay from \$3.50/child to \$5.00/child. This did have some families interested but they were located outside of our county, or unregistered.

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Barton  
Service Coordinator, Early Childhood  
Lutheran Service in Iowa